

B. input means for receiving playing cards into the apparatus;

C. identification means for reading indicia on the playing cards;

D. buffer means having a plurality of slots for temporarily holding cards;

E. directing means for directing cards from the input means into slots in the buffer means;

F. transporting means for moving cards from the input means to and through the identification means;

G. stacking means;

H. ejecting means for ejecting cards from the slots in the buffer means into the stacking means; wherein the identification means signals to the control means the identities of the cards and wherein the control means verifies that a true set of cards has been received in the input means and directs the ejecting means to deliver a true set of cards at the stacking means in either a random order or a sorted order [the apparatus adapted to verify that a true set of cards has been received in the input means and to deliver a true set of cards at the stacking means in either a random order or a sorted order].

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending. The Specification was objected to and claims 1-22 were rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.